

- The bridge and approaches lack crashworthy railing and end treatments.
- The bridge width allows for two lanes of traffic, but is narrow for this use. This creates unsafe conditions for users of the bridge due to the two-way traffic on the roadway. This safety concern is noted in the support letters provided by frequent users of the bridge.
- It has been reported that it is not uncommon for trucks that exceed the posted weight restriction to cross the bridge. Repetitive use of this bridge by over-weight vehicles will shorten the life expectancy of a bridge. MDT typically inspects bridges on a two-year cycle; however, if a bridge is damaged due to over-loaded vehicles it may create an unsafe condition for all users of the bridge.
- The alignment of the roadway at the bridge site is extremely dangerous for the traveling public and the residents of Blaine County. The new alignment will be designed for 45 mph. Currently the roadway at this location is posted for 15 mph. The accident history at this site justifies the need to realign the roadway in an effort to alleviate the concern expressed by the residents.

The new bridge will have crashworthy railing and end treatments, and the new deck clear width will be designed for a minimum of 24-feet, which will safely carry two lanes of traffic and accommodate the possibility of this route being widened during the expected service life of this bridge. The new structure will be designed to accommodate the truck traffic carrying legal loads. The roadway at this location will be realigned to flatten the curves that currently present a safety concern to the County and its residents.

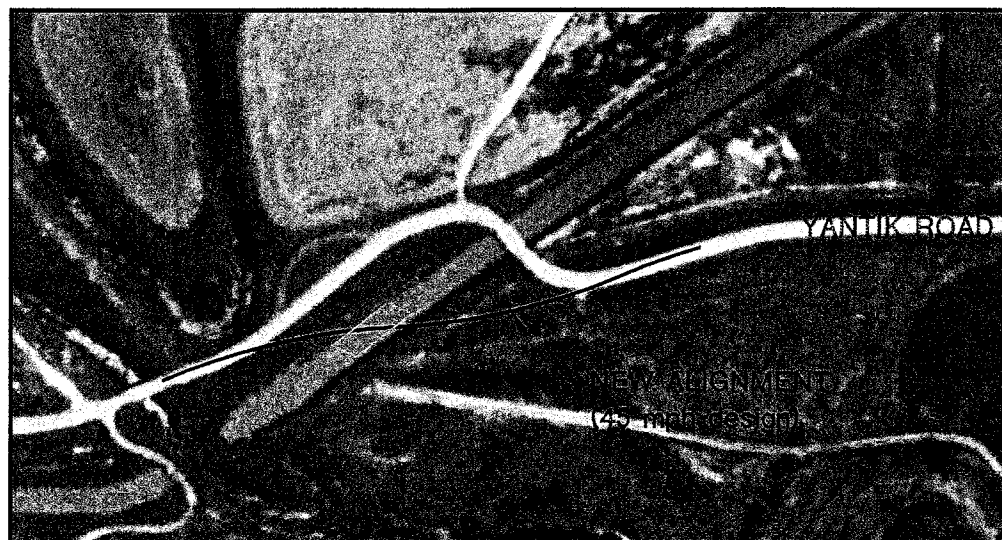


Figure 7 – Improved Roadway Alignment